



Newsletter ~ October 2017

*Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo*

*P.O. Box 1561, Pueblo, Colorado 81002*

**President:** Michael G Salardino • **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Chris Picicci • **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Frank Sagona

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo, Colorado is to promote and preserve the Italian language, culture and customs in Pueblo and Southern Colorado regions. To achieve this mission, the following goals are set forth:

- \* To award scholarships to Pueblo area senior high school students to continue the study of Italian language at the university level.
- \* To sponsor cultural and social activities to enhance the Italian American community.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>40th Anniversary Dinner</b>	<b>Pueblo Country Club</b>	<b>Friday, November 10, 2017 5:30 pm</b>
<b>Annual Christmas Party</b>	<b>The DeNiro's Home</b>	<b>Sunday, December 3, 2017 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Carnevale</b>	<b>TBA</b>	
<b>Scholarship Awards Celebration</b>	<b>Pueblo Country Club</b>	<b>Sunday, May 6, 2018 12:30 pm</b>

**BENVENUTI! WELCOME NEW DANTE MEMBERS!**

Please join us in welcoming our new Dante members:

**Dominic, Michelle, Gianni, & Juliana Gallina**

**Gilbert & Martine Orr**

**Mark, Cheryl, David and Brian Salay**

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fellow Dante Supporters,

It is certainly our hope that all Dante members will attend our November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Regional Dinner Celebration, which will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dante in Pueblo. The region being featured this year is Tuscany and thanks to Barbara Ferraro for playing a lead role in selecting the menu. It is featured elsewhere in the newsletter and, trust me, you will like it!

Also mentioned in this quarter's newsletter are our new members. Membership has really grown lately and it's very gratifying to see so many young people, including CSU Pueblo students joining. A lot of credit goes to Chris Picicci and Donna Stutzman for that achievement!

Last issue featured a column by one of those students, David Salay. In this edition another student traveler to Italy, David's roommate Joey Gavato shares his thoughts. It's great to have David and Joey on board. They are the future!

Thank you to all the Dante members who supported our efforts to honor our ancestors on Columbus Day. Dante, along with members of other Italian American organizations in not only Pueblo, but also Fremont County and Colorado Springs, were there in full force, not only at the monument but also at the dinner that night. It was sad to see the anger and hatred from those attempting to deny us our rights and re write history. As I said at the monument, don't hate them back but rather pray for them and pray for more civility in our badly split country.

But enough of that. Come to the regional dinner and enjoy the music of the fabulous John Turner trio and some great food!

Ciao!

***Michael G. Salardino, President***  
*Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo*



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## GO TO ITALY THIS SPRING!

Visit the Roman Colosseum, see Michelangelo's David and eat gelato while people-watching in the Piazza della Signoria! Rome and Florence await you this spring! Join CSU-Pueblo faculty and students for an Education First College Study Tour this March.

**Want more information?**

Visit [www.efcollegestudytours.com/1948466aw](http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/1948466aw)

# Grand Tour of Italy

Written by: Joey Gavato

The main question people ask me about my trip to Italy is, “What was your favorite city?” While this seems like a simple question, the truth is that I cannot honestly say which city, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, or Rome is my favorite. Even though they are all Italian cities, they are so diverse, different, and unique they are almost incomparable.



Gondola Ride in Venice

“I could go on for hours about each city, and will never be able to capture the feeling of each city and how much I enjoyed the Grand Tour of Italy as a whole.” Joey Gavato

However, I can tell you my favorite part of each city. I could go on for hours about each city, and will never be able to capture the feeling of each city and how much I enjoyed the Grand Tour of Italy as a whole.

Venice had its highlights: The gondola ride, an elevator ride to the top of the bell tower, the Doge’s Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, a glass blowing demonstration, St. Mark’s Square, and our first taste at real Italian food and gelato. Venice brought

some excitement in an adventure trying to return to our hotel on the mainland after staying in Venice to see St. Mark’s Square at night (which was completely worth it). However, the true highlight of Venice was simply exploring the city that seemed to be built to get lost in and discover the hidden wonders and secrets of Venice.

Florence had highlights in the Duomo, the Baptistry, Ponte Vecchio, the Accademia and Uffizi Galleries, the Duomo Museum, and a lucky Boar statue. My favorite part of Florence was climbing the bell tower to the very top to see the entire city. The tight staircase had 2 fake summits, which initially fooled me into thinking we were at the very top. The final staircase to the top was a set of small triangular steps that spiraled us onto the roof of the Bell tower for an incredible view of Florence.



Group Dinner in Florence

Mediterranean and then getting to walk along the beach at night.

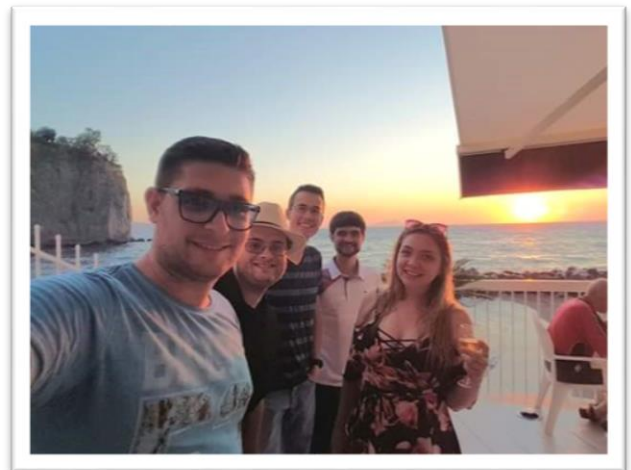
The island of Capri was a beautiful experience, but the highlight for me, was venturing away from the tourists and stumbling across a local fruit vendor. I can honestly say that I have not tasted a cherry as good as the ones I had on Capri.

A quick day in Rome featured tours of the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Vatican, and walks to the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, and Spanish Steps. Rome in itself was a quick and packed day, the whole day was almost a highlight in itself, but the true highlight was the Coliseum and St. Peter's Basilica.

As a whole, we had perfect weather throughout the trip (minus 10 minutes of rainfall in Venice). We had a wonderful group led by Chris Picicci and Donna Stutzman along with tour director Tiziano (a local Roman), and bus driver Gianni (a local Neapolitan). The sights, the food, and the people, truly made this trip so memorable. There could not be a grander tour than the Grand Tour of Italy.

The quiet, simple, and holy city of Assisi was a completely different environment than the previous cities. The churches of St. Claire and St. Francis were beautiful and held many historical artifacts from the two saints. The highlight of Assisi was descending below the altar in St. Francis' Cathedral to see the tomb of St. Francis.

The next day featured a tour of Pompeii and an evening on the beach of Sorrento. The tour of Pompeii was incredible, but the highlight was eating dinner as the sun set on the



Sunset in Sorrento

The Dante Alighieri Society of Pueblo

Cordially Invites You to the  
Annual Regional Italian Dinner  
Featuring the Region of Tuscany



**Friday, November 10, 2017**

**5:30 pm Cocktails**

**6:30 pm Dinner**

Pueblo Country Club | 3200 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue | Pueblo, Colorado

## Menu

A Tuscan antipasto tray will be served during cocktail hour followed by a plated meal of endive salad followed by spinach and ricotta stuffed shells, roast pork loin with apples and a dolce of salted caramel budino (pudding in cookie crust with a caramel sauce.)

## Entertainment

Music by the John Turner Trio

**Cost \$35 Per Person**

*Proceeds will benefit the Italian language programs in area high schools.*

For reservations please call Phyllis Gardner at 719-564-1628 by 11/3/2017.

Please note that we are required to pay for all reservations whether or not guests attend the dinner.  
We request that you send a check or cancel in advance if you are unable to attend.

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